

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2120

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 0293

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, MO, LY

SUBJECT: POLICE VIEWS ON CASABLANCA BOMBS

REF: CASABLANCA A-32

1. CASABLANCA CHIEF OF POLICE ALI BEN TAHILA TOLD ADMIN OFFICER APRIL 3 THAT BOMBS PLACED AGAINST US FACILITIES WERE DISTINCT PART OF THE PLOT OF MARCH 3 AS ONE OF MANY ATTEMPTS TO CREATE GENERAL " CONFUSION, MISTRUST AND MISUNDERSTANDING" THROUGHOUT MOROCCO. HE REITERATED HIS EARLIER STATEMENT THAT BOMBS WERE PLACED AGAINST US FACILITIES BECAUSE IT WAS EASY TO DO SO, AND NOT BECAUSE OF ANY DESIGN AGAINST THE US. HAD THE BOMBS EXPLODED, THEY WOULD HAVE EMBARRASSED THE REGIME AND CAUSED MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AND GOM.

2. WHEN QUESTIONED, HE ALSO SAID, PERSONALLY, HE FELT ALL PARTS OF MARCH 3 PLOT WERE CONNECTED MORE OR LESS TO QADHAFI OF LIBYA THROUGH MOHAMMED BASRI, NOW IN FRANCE. THE CASABLANCA " CELL" OF THE PLOT WAS DIRECTED BY OMAR DAHKOUNE, AND IT WAS HE WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMBS PLACED AT CONGEN AND USIS CENTER. BEN TAHILA INTIMATED DAHKOUNE RECEIVED SUPPORT THROUGH BASRI FROM LIBYA, THOUGH IT WAS NOT AS DIRECT OR AS MUCH AS THAT RECEIVED BY INSURGENTS AT KHENIFRA AND GOULMIMA.

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3. BEN TAHILA STATED EXAMINATION OF FRAGMENTS OF THE CASABLANCA BOMBS AND OTHER UNEXPLODED BOMBS FOUND IN RABAT REVEALED BOMBS WERE OF LOCAL FABRICATION AND WERE CONSTRUCTED MUCH AS REPORTED EARLIER. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THEY WERE EQUIPPED WITH AN ELECTRIC TIMING DEVICE WHICH FAILED BECAUSE IT REQUIRED 12 VOLTS AND A 9 VOLT BATTERY WAS USED.

4. COMMENT: CONGEN CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT WHILE US FACILITIES

MAY HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BECAUSE THEY WERE EASY TARGETS, THEY WERE ALSO INVITING TARGETS POLITICALLY, AND REMAIN SO. ALSO, IT APPEARS THAT MARCH 3 PLOTTERS WERE WELL DISPERSED IN CASABLANCA, AS, FOR EXAMPLE, TWO OF DAHKOUNE' S GROUP ARE MOHAMMED MOUHTADI WHO WORKS FOR A LOCAL BUS COMPANY AND MUSTAPHA YOUSSEF WHO RUNS AN AUTO GARAGE WITH HIS BROTHER.
NELSON

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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